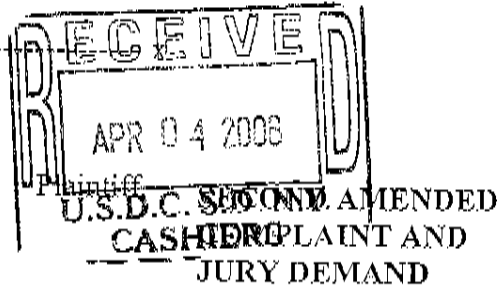


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

KYRA LYNCH,

-against-



THE CITY OF NEW YORK, POLICE COMMISSIONER  
RAYMOND KELLY, COMMANDING OFFICER  
COREY PEGUES, POLICE OFFICER JAECEAN  
WILSON, SHIELD NO. 23815, POLICE OFFICER  
DMITRY SHERY, SHIELD NO. 29971, POLICE  
OFFICER THOMAS SKLADEL, SHIELD NO. 31206,  
CAPTAIN ROBERT VAN HAUGHTON, AND  
SERGEANT YANNIQUE CARTER, SHIELD NO. 512,  
"JOHN DOE" POLICE OFFICERS 1-5,

DOCKET #07-CV -  
0446(CM)(MHD)

ECF CASE

Defendants.

x

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This is a civil rights action in which plaintiff seeks relief for the violation of her rights secured by 42 USC §1983, §1988 and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

2. The claim arises from a September 2, 2006 incident in which Officers of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), acting under color of state law, intentionally and willfully subjected plaintiff to, among other things, assault, battery, false arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

3. Plaintiff seeks monetary damages (special, compensatory, and punitive) against defendants, as well as an award of costs and attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

### JURISDICTION

4. This action is brought pursuant to 28 USC §1331, 42 USC §1983, and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Pendent party jurisdiction and supplementary jurisdiction over plaintiff's state law claims are asserted.

5. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00 excluding interest and costs.

6. Venue is laid within the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in that Defendant City of New York is located within the boundaries of the Southern District of New York.

### PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a citizen of the United States and at all times here relevant resided in Kings County, City and State of New York.

8. The City of New York is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

9. New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly ("Kelly") was at all times here relevant the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, and, as such, was a policy maker with respect to training, supervision, and discipline of NYPD officers, including the other individual defendants. Kelly is sued in his individual and official capacities.

10. Commanding Officer Corey Pegues ("Pegues") was at all times here relevant the commanding officer of the Public Service Area 2 ("PSA 2"), and, as such, was a policy maker with respect to training, supervision, and discipline of NYPD officers within the precinct, including the other individual defendants. Pegues is sued in his individual and official capacities.

11. All others individual defendants ("the officers") are employees of the NYPD, and are

sued in their individual capacities.

12. At all times here mentioned defendants were acting under color of state law, to wit, under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of the City and State of New York.

### **NOTICE OF CLAIM**

13. Within 90 days of the events giving rise to this claim, plaintiff filed written notice of claim with the New York City Office of the Comptroller. Over 30 days have elapsed since the filing of that notice, and this matter has not been settled or otherwise disposed of.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14. On September 2, 2006, a Saturday, at approximately 11:50 P.M., at 335 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, officers assaulted, battered and subjected plaintiff to excessive force and then falsely arrested, falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted plaintiff.

15. The building at 335 Sutter Avenue in Brooklyn, New York is a New York City Housing Authority building.

16. Plaintiff resided at 335 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, New York on Saturday, September 2, 2006.

17. Officers pulled plaintiff from inside the doorway of her apartment into the hallway, where officers assaulted, battered and subjected plaintiff to excessive force.

18. Officers handcuffed and arrested plaintiff without probable cause.

19. Officers transported plaintiff to Public Service Area 2 ("PSA 2").

20. Officers detained plaintiff at PSA 2 for several hours.

21. Officers initiated formal charges against plaintiff for inciting to riot without probable cause.

22. Officers transported plaintiff to Brooklyn Central Booking.
23. Plaintiff was detained at Brooklyn Central Booking for several hours.
24. The District Attorney's office declined to prosecute plaintiff.
25. At all times during the events described above, the defendant police officers were engaged in a joint venture and formed an agreement to violate plaintiff's rights. The individual officers assisted each other in performing the various actions described and lent their physical presence and support and the authority of their office to each other during said events. They failed to intervene in the obviously illegal actions of their fellow officers against plaintiff.
26. During all of the events above described, defendants acted maliciously and with intent to injure plaintiff.

#### DAMAGES

27. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of defendants, plaintiff suffered the following injuries and damages:
  - a. Violation of her rights pursuant to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution to be free from an unreasonable search and seizure of her person;
  - b. Violation of her right to Due Process of Law under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;
  - c. Violation of her New York State Constitutional rights under Article 1, Section 12 to be free from an unreasonable search and seizure;
  - d. Violation of her New York State Constitutional right under Article 1, Section 6 to Due Process of Law;
  - f. Emotional trauma and suffering, including fear, embarrassment, humiliation,

emotional distress, frustration, extreme inconvenience, anxiety; and

g. Loss of liberty.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

(42 USC § 1983)

28. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

29. Defendants acted under color of law and conspired to deprive plaintiff of her civil, constitutional and statutory rights to be free from unreasonable search and seizure and to due process of law pursuant to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and are liable to plaintiff under 42 U.S.C. §§1983 and §§ 6 and 12 of the New York State Constitution.

30. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of defendants' wrongful acts.

### **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

(MUNICIPAL AND SUPERVISORY LIABILITY)

31. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

32. The City, Kelly, and Pegues are liable for the damages suffered by plaintiff as a result of the conduct of their employees, agents, and servants.

33. The City, Kelly, and Pegues knew or should have known of their employees', agents', or servants' propensity to engage in the illegal and wrongful acts detailed above.

34. The aforesaid event was not an isolated incident. The City, Kelly, and Pegues have been aware for some time (from lawsuits, notices of claim and complaints filed with the Civilian Complaint Review Board) that many of their police officers are insufficiently trained on the prerequisites for arresting an individual. Similarly, the City, Kelly, and Pegues are aware that police officers are insufficiently trained on how to avoid using excessive force or disciplined for

uses of excessive force. The City, Kelly, and Pegues are further aware, from the same sources, that NYPD officers routinely ignore the necessary predicates for an arrest, and that a "wall of silence" exists by which police officers assault citizens without fear of reprisal. The City, Kelly, and Pegues fail to discipline officers for not reporting fellow officers' misconduct that they have observed, and they fail to discipline officers for making false statements to disciplinary agencies. Further, there is no procedure to notify individual officers or their supervisors of unfavorable judicial review of their conduct. Without this notification, improper search and seizure practices and incredible testimony go uncorrected. Additionally, the City, Kelly, and Pegues have isolated their law department from the discipline of police officers, so that civil suits against police officers for actions taken in their capacity as police officers have no impact on the officers' careers, regardless of the outcome of the civil actions. The City, Kelly, and Pegues are aware that all of the aforementioned has resulted in violations of citizens' constitutional rights. Despite such notice, the City, Kelly and Pegues have failed to take corrective action. This failure and these policies caused the officers in the present case to violate plaintiff's civil rights, without fear of reprisal.

35. The City, Kelly, and Pegues have failed to take the steps to discipline, train, supervise or otherwise correct the improper, illegal conduct of the individual defendants in this and in similar cases involving misconduct.

36. The above described policies and customs demonstrated a deliberate indifference on the part of policymakers of the City, Kelly, and Pegues to the constitutional rights of persons within New York City, and were the cause of the violations of plaintiff's rights here alleged.

37. Defendants the City, Kelly, and Pegues have damaged plaintiff by their failure to properly train, supervise, discipline, review, remove, or correct the illegal and improper acts of

their employees, agents or servants in this and in similar cases involving police misconduct.

38. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of the wrongful, negligent and illegal acts of the City, Kelly, and Pegues.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(ASSAULT)**

39. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

40. Upon pulling, holding and arresting plaintiff, defendants made plaintiff fear for her physical well-being and safety and placed her in apprehension of immediate harmful and/or offensive touching.

41. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of her civil, constitutional and statutory rights, conspired to deprive her of such rights and are liable to plaintiff under 42 USC §1983 and the New York State Constitution.

42. Plaintiff was damaged by defendants' assault.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(BATTERY)**

43. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

44. Defendants engaged in and subjected plaintiff to immediate harmful and/or offensive touching and battered her.

45. Defendants used excessive and unnecessary force with plaintiff.

46. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of her civil, constitutional and statutory rights, conspired to deprive her of such rights and are liable to plaintiff under 42 USC §1983 and the New York State Constitution.

47. Plaintiff was damaged by defendants' battery.

**FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
(FALSE ARREST AND ILLEGAL IMPRISONMENT)

48. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

49. Defendants subjected plaintiff to false arrest, false imprisonment, and deprivation of liberty without probable cause.

50. Defendant intended to confine plaintiff.

51. Plaintiff was conscious of her confinement and did not consent to her confinement.

52. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of her civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive her of such rights and are liable to plaintiff under 42 USC §§1983, New York State common law, and the New York State Constitution.

53. As a result of the false arrest, imprisonment, and deprivation of liberty, plaintiff was damaged.

**SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
(CONSTITUTIONAL TORT)

54. All preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

55. Defendants, acting under color of law, violated plaintiff's rights pursuant to §§6 and 12 of the New York State Constitution.

56. A damages remedy here is necessary to effectuate the purposes of §§6 and 12 of the New York State Constitution, and appropriate to ensure full realization of plaintiff's rights under those sections.

**SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
(RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR)

57. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

58. Defendants' intentional tortious acts were undertaken within the scope of their employment by defendant City of New York and in furtherance of the defendant City of New



York's interest.

59. As a result of defendants' tortious conduct in the course of their employment and in furtherance of the business of defendant City of New York, plaintiff was damaged.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

- A. In favor of plaintiff in an amount to be determined by a jury for each of plaintiff's causes of action;
- B. Awarding plaintiff punitive damages in an amount to be determined by a jury;
- C. Awarding plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements of this action; and
- D. Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

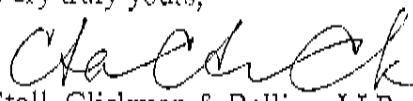
DATED: Brooklyn, New York  
April 3, 2008

TO: New York City  
Corporation Counsel Office  
100 Church Street, 4th floor  
New York, NY 10007

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly  
1 Police Plaza  
Room 1406  
New York, NY 10006

Commanding Officer Captain Corey Pegues  
Public Service Area 2  
560 Sutler Avenue

Very truly yours,

  
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Brooklyn, NY 11206

Police Officer Thomas Skladet  
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Public Service Area 2  
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Brooklyn, New York 11208

Captain Robert Van Haughton  
Brooklyn North Gang Squad  
30 Ralph Avenue  
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Sergeant Yannique Carter  
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